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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 885 Workers at Four Central Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that four central Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund.

"It's a winning situation for everyone involved when companies boost their performance through training and hiring, as well as upgrading equipment and technology," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "We're pleased to partner with companies like these that take the initiative to improve their employees' skills, and often, increase their workforce."

- **IR Von Duprin**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to offer training to 552 incumbent employees as part of a \$2 million investment in upgrading equipment. Established in 1908, Von Duprin introduced the first "panic release bar" for commercial applications in response to a need for protecting assembly line safety. Today, the company manufactures a wide range of exit devices and security-related products. Von Duprin will use the grant to provide employee education in AC circuits and motor control, welding, electricity, blueprint reading, wiring, grounding, problem solving, robot polishing and quality control procedures.
- **National Wine & Spirits**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$20,500 grant to train 139 existing employees following the company's \$1.6 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. In 1934, family-owned National Liquor Co. was established and by 1982, its name was formally changed as the company expanded market-by-market throughout the state. Using the Commerce funding, National Wine & Spirits will train employees in computer skills, forklift operation, logistics, conveyor and equipment maintenance, and quality control processes.

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- **Solution Technology, Inc.**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$59,750 grant to train 58 new and 38 existing associates following a company investment of \$5.9 million to upgrade computer servers and its network, along with research and development software. Solution Technology specializes in providing information technology infrastructure for e-business applications and has a business alliance with IBM to offer its services. Employees will receive instruction in problem solving, remote site procedures, order management and information technology quality as a result of the grant.
- **Standard Locknut, Inc.**, Westfield, has been awarded a \$24,500 grant to train employees in eight new and 90 existing positions following the company's \$400,000 investment in equipment. The company began in 1949 with the purchase of a small distributorship of bearing accessories; it is now a second-generation company with major customers. Standard Locknut will use the grant to offer employees training in machine operations, engineering, geometrics, integrated manufacturing information systems and quality control procedures.

The Commerce Department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Economic Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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